

found in a similar experiment a grape skin which sustained a mercury column 70^{cm} in height for seventy-five days. The membrane is believed to have shown an absolute or nearly absolute resistance to filtration by atmospheric gases during the time mentioned in my experiment, since the upper surface of the column and the tube showed a discoloration indicative of the decay of the coloring matter from the lower side of the membrane. The gas evolved during the disintegration would be of sufficient amount to allow the fall of the mercury column.—R. N. DAY, *Minneapolis, Minn.*

Hamamelis Virginiana.—Notes in a recent number of the GAZETTE regarding the dissemination of seeds of *Hamamelis Virginiana* recall my first acquaintance with its powers of propulsion.

In August, 1890, a visiting friend to whom the plant was new brought a branch to the house and placed it over a mirror. The next afternoon (some twenty-four hours later) as I was sitting alone in the room my attention was called to occasional cracking sounds which investigation proved to be caused by the propulsion of these seeds.

By evening most of the capsules were found to be empty, and those not so were emptied during the following day. No measurements were taken, but I distinctly remember that a number of the seeds were thrown to the opposite side of a 17-foot room.

I mention this as showing that the propulsive power is acquired as the capsule becomes dry, even though the stage of maturity is not reached.—BESSIE L. PUTNAM, *Harmonsbury, Pa.*